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STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1921.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE:
Printed by G. F. Laybourne & Co., Ltd., 14, 16 and 18, Collingwood Street.

1922.

STANLEY,

May, 1922.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to your Council my report for the year 1921.

Instructions from the Ministry of Health state that medical reports are to be divided into two classes. Ordinary Reports (such as the present) contain only the particulars asked for by the Ministry of Health. Survey Reports of a full and detailed character, normally will be required at intervals of not more than 5 years.

Industrial disputes and unemployment militated against the prosperity of the past year. This is reflected in the figures for the amount paid in Poor Law Relief, which was £22,445, as compared with £2,355 in 1920, and £1,400 in 1919.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area, 3,593 acres.

Population (1921), 25,540 (Registrar General).

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921), 5,154.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921), 5,509.

Rateable Value, £74,626.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £310.

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EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	376	388	764
Illegitimate	13	24	37
	389	412	801
DEATHS	194	146	340

Birth Rate (R.G.), 31.36.
Death Rate (R.G.), 13.3.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child birth :—

a	From Sepsis	1
b	From other causes	1
		2

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—

a	Legitimate	139
b	Illegitimate	81
c	Total	136

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	13
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	8
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	25

Births.

The total number of births for the district in 1921 was 801 (389 males and 412 females), being less than the total for the previous year, when there were 870 births. This gives a birth rate for 1921 of 31.36 per 1,000 population, as compared with a rate of 35.67 for 1920.

The rate for the whole of England and Wales is 22.4, and for the County of Durham 30.05.

There were 37 illegitimate births (13 males and 24 females), which gives a birth rate of 1.45 per 1,000 population, and a rate of 46 per 1,000 children born.

The number of births in the 7 preceding years was 870 in 1920, 686 in 1919, 588 in 1918, 651 in 1917, 597 in 1916, 797 in 1915, and 920 in 1914.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths belonging to the district for the past year was 340 (194 males and 146 females). This gives a death rate per 1,000 population of 13.3 as compared with a County rate of 13.01, and a rate for the whole of England and Wales of 12.1.

The totals for the district in 1920, 1919, 1918, 1917, 1916, 1915 and 1914, were 352, 373, 382, 285, 292, 387 and 398 respectively.

Infantile Mortality Rate.

109 deaths (equal to 32.06 per cent. of the total deaths) occurred under the age of 1 year, in comparison with 103 in 1920, 100 in 1919, 87 in 1918, 65 in 1917, 82 in 1916, 104 in 1915, and 139 in 1914. This is equal to a death rate of 136 per 1,000 births registered, as against rates of 118, 148, 148, 100, 137, 130, and 151 in the seven preceding years. The rate for the whole of England and Wales is 83, and for the County of Durham 109.

No less than 41.28 per cent. of the total deaths of infants in the past year were due to immaturity.

The following table compares the various rates for this district with those for the County of Durham per 1,000 population :—

	County,	Stanley.
Birth Rate	30.05	31.36
Death Rate	13.01	13.3
Infantile Mortality Rate	109	136
Zymotic Death Rate	1.23	2.38
Smallpox	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	0.06	0.12
Diphtheria	0.13	0.47
Enteric Fever	0.02	Nil.
Measles	0.18	0.51
Whooping Cough	0.23	0.31
Diarrhoea (under two years)	0.61	0.98
Diarrhoea (over ,, ,,)	0.10	Nil.
Phthisis	0.97	0.98
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	2.34	2.70
Influenza ... —	0.23	0.27

The next table gives the cause of death of residents at all ages :—

	Males.	Females.
Measles	... 9	4
Scarlet Fever	 2	1
Whooping Cough	 1	7
Diphtheria	 6	6
Influenza	 5	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	13
Other forms of Tuberculosis	 9	3
Cancer	 8	9
Rheumatic Fever	 2	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	7	2
Heart Disease	 7	8
Arterio Sclerosis	 6	4
Bronchitis	14	14
Pneumonia	21	17
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	 2	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under two years	16	9
Cirrhosis of Liver	 1	—
Nephritis	 5	1
Puerperal Fever	....—	1
Parturition	....—	1
Premature Birth, etc.	24	21
Violence	 5	4
Other Defined Diseases	29	15
Causes Ill-defined	....—	1
TOTAL	194	146

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1921.

(Provisional Figures). Population as enumerated in 1921.

	England and Wales.	Stanley.
BIRTH RATE	22.4	31.36
DEATH RATE :—		
All Causes	12.1	13.3
Enteric Fever	0.02	Nil.
Small Pox	0.00	Nil.
Measles	0.06	0.51
Scarlet Fever	0.03	0.12
Whooping Cough	0.12 ...	0.31
Diphtheria	0.12 ...	0.47
Influenza	0.23	0.27
Violence	0.44	0.35
Death Rate under 1 year per 1,000 Births	83	136.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

303 cases of Notifiable Diseases were reported to me during 1921, as compared with 505 in the previous year.

The following table summarises this total, and institutes a comparison with the figures for the past eight years :—

	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914
Diphtheria	81	119	56	62	55	35	35	18
Erysipelas	11	14	8	10	10	13	4	16
Scarlet Fever	110	155	144	168	89	202	165	109
Enteric Fever	—	2	4	1	5	2	—	5
Puerperal Fever	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	16	13	6	8	3	8	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	22	41	20	23	37	37	66	43
Other Forms of Tuberculosis....	27	69	19	22	20	31	52	29
Measles	not notifiable		412	108	637	14	not notifiable	
German Measles	do.		—	2	116	43	do.	
Pneumonia	42	82	82	not notifiable				
Malaria	3	—	2	do.				
Dysentery	—	1	1	do.				
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	2	—	do.				
Cerebro 8pinal Fever	—	1	—	do.				
Totals	303	505	763	403	977	380	330	227

The following table gives the age, period, etc., of cases notified:—

	Under 1 Year.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over.	Total Notified.	Cases sent to Hspl.	Deaths
Diphtheria	2	1	2	4	5	33	22	5	6	—	1	—	81	80	12
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	6	8	48	30	12	4	—	—	—	110	109	3
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	5	7	2	3	1	5	2	3	4	4	6	—	42	—	38
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	3	2	11	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	—	—
Other Diseases notifiable locally	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Pulmonary Males	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	4	—	2	—	11	—	12
Tuberculosis Pulmonary Females	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	5	—	—	—	11	—	13
Non-Pulmonary Males	1	—	—	—	—	4	2	3	2	—	—	—	12	—	9
Non-Pulmonary Females	1	2	—	1	—	5	6	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	3

Ophthalmia Neonatorum Table.

	CASES.			Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At Home.	In Hospital.				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	6	1	6	1	Nil.	Nil.

Diphtheria.

There were 81 cases reported in 1921, as compared with 119 in the previous year. The disease was present each month, but was most prevalent in the months of January, May, and June, with 11, 11, and 13 cases respectively. 23 specimens from suspects were sent for bacteriological examination, and 4 of these proved to be positive.

There were 12 deaths, equal to 14.81 per cent. of the cases attacked, compared with 16 deaths, equal to 13.44 per cent., in 1920, 3 deaths, equal to 5.35 per cent., in 1919, and 11 deaths, equal to 17.74 per cent., in 1918.

80 patients were removed to hospital, and 1 was isolated.

An adequate supply of anti-toxin is kept for distribution to the medical practitioners in the area.

Erysipelas.

Eleven cases were reported in 1921, as against 4 in 1920, 8 in 1919, and 10 in 1918. There were no deaths.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified in 1921 was 45 less than in the preceding year. The disease was present each month, being most prevalent in January with 14 cases, February with 12, and June with 15.

Three patients died from this disease in 1921, this number representing 2.72 per cent. of the cases attacked, as against 4 deaths equal to 2.58 per cent. in 1920, 3 deaths and 2.08 per cent in 1919, and 11 deaths and 6.5 per cent. in 1918.

109 patients were removed to Hospital, and 1 died before removal could take place.

Enteric Fever.

There were no cases reported last year.

Puerperal Fever.

No cases were reported in 1921.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Seven cases of this disease were reported last year, as compared with 16 in 1920, 13 in 1919, 6 in 1918, 8 in 1917, 3 in 1916, 8 in 1915, and 3 in 1914.

One case had to receive hospital treatment.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in 1921 was 22 (11 males and 11 females). This is little more than half the number reported in 1920, and is much below the average of the preceding 7 years,

The number of deaths was 25 (12 males and 13 females), as against 15 in 1920, and 23 in 1919.

In the past year 31 specimens from suspects were sent for bacteriological examination, and out of this number 8 proved to be positive.

Other Forms of Tuberculosis.

Under this heading the number of cases reported also shows a great decrease as compared with the previous year. There were 27 notifications (12 males and 15 females), as against 69 in 1920, 19 in 1919, 22 in 1918, 20 in 1917, 31 in 1916, 52 in 1915, and 29 in 1914.

The number of deaths was 12 (9 males and 3 females), as compared with 10 in 1920, and 7 in 1919.

Pneumonia.

There were 42 cases reported last year, slightly more than half the number in each of the two previous years.

With the exception of April the disease was notified each month, the worst months being January and February with 7 and 8 cases respectively.

The mortality was very heavy, 38 patients succumbing to the various forms of this disease. The deaths in 1920 were 39, and in 1919 were 33.

Malaria.

There were 3 cases of this disease notified in 1921. In each instance the patient had contracted the disease abroad.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.

This disease was present more or less during the whole year, but did not assume epidemic form. Nevertheless there were 13 deaths, the same number as in the previous year.

Whooping Cough.

Whooping Cough was fairly prevalent during the whole year, and resulted in 8 deaths, as compared with 1 in 1920, 3 in 1919, 17 in 1918, 5 in 1917, 4 in 1916, and 8 in 1915.

Diarrhoea and Entritis.

There were 25 deaths in infants from this cause, as against 8 in the previous year.

The figures for 1919, 1918, 1917, 1916, 1915, and 1914 were 5, 11, 8, 6, 20, and 28 respectively.

Influenza.

Influenza was present during practically the whole year, but did not assume epidemic form. There were 7 deaths, as compared with 2 in 1920, 31 in 1919, and 80 in 1918.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

The Stanley and District Nursing Association (in affiliation with Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute of Nurses and Durham County Council) provides 4 trained nurses—2 Queen's and 2 Maternity—for the purpose of visiting the sick in their own homes. All cases are attended to with the exception of Infectious Fevers, which are removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The financial arrangements are in the hands of a local committee, and the contributions to the funds of the Association are voluntary.

During the past year the number of general nursing visits paid was 9,830. Approximately 720 cases were attended, about half of which were surgical. The number of maternity and midwifery visits paid were 1,500.

Midwives.

There are 3 midwives practicing in the district.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Centre is open on Tuesday morning, and all day on Thursday, a Medical Officer being in attendance all the time. During 1921 there were some 700 on the Registar, and the average weekly attendance was:—

Under 1 year	....	...	50
Over 1 year	...	...	14
Ante-natal	....	....	1

School Clinics, Tuberculosis, and Veneral Diseases are in the hands of the County Authorities.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

The Stanley Urban District Council forms one of the constituent authorities of the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board. Under the control of this Board are 5 Hospitals, 3 for the reception and treatment of cases of ordinary infectious diseases, 1 for Smallpox, and 1 for Tuberculosis. So far the accomodation in these Hospitals has been found adequate.

There are no Hospitals or Institutions provided in this district for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children.

The other Hospitals, etc., available for the district are:—

The Royal Victoria, and other Infirmaries, Newcastle. The Poor Law Hospital, Lanchester. A local Tuberculosis Dispensary provided by the County Council.

Motor Ambulances.

Motor Ambulances are now used for the removal of infectious patients to the Isolation Hospital. Most of the Colliery Companies keep Motor Ambulances.

LABORATORY WORK.

Under the arrangement made between the County Council and The College of Medicine, Newcastle, 51 specimens were sent for Bacteriological examination from 31 Tuberculosis, and 23 Diphtheria suspects. Out of this number 8 of Tuberculosis, and 4 of Diphtheria were found to be positive.

An adequate supply of Anti-Toxin and Infiuenza Vaccine is kept for distribution to Medical Practitioners.

Adoptive Acts in your area are:—

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1879, *et seq.*
Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1890, Part 3.
Private Street Works Act, 1892.
Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1890, Part 4.
Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1907, Parts 2, 3, 4, 5.
Regulatians with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops.

Bye-Laws, March 21st, 1894.

Cleansing of Foot-ways and Pavements.
Removal of House Refuse.
Cleansing of Earth-closets, Privies, Ashpits, and Cess-pools.
Nuisances.
Common Lodging Houses.
New Streets and Buildings.
Slaughter Houses.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Your Sanitary Inspector reports to me as follows:—

Closet Accommodation.

During the year 5 extra water-closets were provided in business premises and theatres. A number of conversions were held up by industrial conditions.

At present in the district the numbers of each type of convenience are :—

Water Closets	....	....	1,360
Ash Closets	....	....	2,821
Ashpit Privies	....	....	718
			4,899

Two ashpit privies have gone out of use with closed houses, and 10 were converted into water-closets.

The following table gives a summary of notices served after inspections :—

Type of Nuisance.	Informal Notices.	Formal Notices.	Nuisances Abated.
Dwelling Houses, Foul Conditions	12	—	12
Do. Structural Defects	162	1	133
Do. Overcrowding	12	—	9
Dairies and Milkshops	1	—	1
Cowsheds	8	—	8
Bake Houses	6	—	6
Slaughter Houses	6	—	6
Ashpits and Privies	104	—	84
Deposits of Refuse	8	—	8
Water Closets	41	—	39
Defective Yard Paving	25	—	24
Faults in House Drainage	73	—	70
Water Supply	5	—	5
Other Nuisances	34	—	34
	497	1	439

Bake Houses.

There are 9 bake houses in the district, and these are conducted in a satisfactory manner. 6 informal notices with regard to cleansing and white-washing were complied with.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 8 slaughter houses in the district registered and licensed. These are all in close proximity to dwelling houses, and are kept in satisfactory order. Six notices *re* lime-washing were at once complied with.

Disinfection.

193 houses, bedding, etc., were fumigated during the year.

Milk Supply.

There are 10 cow-keepers, and 8 resident milk purveyors in the district, and other purveyors come in from outside the area.

With regard to the cow-sheds, comments have been made in previous years; but in connection with cleanliness, it would be a matter of satisfaction if the same care were exercised on the cow-sheds and the udders of cows, as on the milk utensils.

It was found necessary to serve 8 informal notices with regard to cleansing and whitewashing. These received attention.

Unwholesome Food.

The following were condemmed before being offered for sale:—

140 lbs. Haddocks.
7 ,, Cured Fillet.
84 ,, Cockles.
12 ,, Pickled Onions.
117 Rabbits.
17 Cucumbers.
24 Gallons Milk.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF,

Medical Officer (Part time).
Inspector of Nuisances.
Health Visitors (provided by County Council).

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year—

(*a*)	Total	56
(*b*)	As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	40

(1) Unfit Dwelling Houses.

INSPECTION.

(*a*)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	372
(*b*)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of Dwellings) Regulations, 1910	241
(*c*)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	48
(*d*)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	220

(2) Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	172

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling houses rendered fit :—	
	(*a*) By Owners	Nil.
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil.
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by Owners of intention to close	Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—	
	(*a*) By Owners	1
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil.

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	1
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	Nil.
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(5)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3 houses demolished in laying out Housing Scheme

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

E. BENSON, D.P.H.,

Medical Officer.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
STANLEY.